

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 214050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, FR

SUBJECT: OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION

REFS: (A) PARIS 12666 (B) PARIS 22163

1. REGRET DELAY IN REPLYING TO REF A WHICH DISCUSSES DELAY IN DELIVERY OF U.S. FURNISHED TOWER ANTENNA TO FRENCH FOR OMEGA STATION LA REUNION. FRENCH INDICATED MAY 1974 WAS ASSUMED DELIVERY DATE. FYI U.S. NAVY DID NOT AGREE TO MAY 1974 DELIVERY DATE. IN A LETTER TO THE FRENCH NAVY DATED 7 FEB 1973 THE OMEGA PROJECT OFFICE FORECASTED A DELIVERY DATE OF AUGUST 1974. FRENCH NAVY LETTER OF 6 AUGUST 73 CONTAINED A NEED DATE OF MAY 1974. IN RESPONSE THE U.S. NAVY OMEGA PROJECT OFFICE STATED THE 1974 DATES COULD NOT BE MET AND THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WAS FEB 1975. END FYI.

2. TOWER ANTENNA IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT WITH ANTICIPATED DELIVERY DATES AT LA REUNION AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST HALF TOWER 30 APR 1975

SECOND HALF TOWER 30 JUN 1975

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REMAINING ANTENNA COMPONENTS 31 JUL 1975

INSULATORS 8 AUG 1975

THESE DATES AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE U.S. FURNISHED TOWER WERE PROVIDED TO THE FRENCH NAVY DURING A MEETING IN PARIS 18-19 JUL 1974.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE FRENCH INDICATION THAT TOWER DELIVERY DELAY IS INCREASING THE STATION COST BY 1.4 MILLION FRANCS, THE NAVY HAS RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST BY THE FRENCH PROJECT MANAGER TO REIMBURSE THE FRENCH FOR THESE DELAY COSTS. OMEGA PROJECT OFFICE TOLD THE FRENCH IN JULY THAT NO MONEY HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE, NOR IS A METHOD AVAILABLE TO REIMBURSE THEM FOR SUCH COSTS. THE FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN OMEGA WAS THAT STATION CONSTRUCTION COSTS WOULD BE EQUALLY SHARED, AND THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS BASIS FOR TERMS OF GOVERNMENT LEVEL AGREEMENT SIGNED IN JUNE 1973. THIS CONCEPT BECAME THE BASIS FOR U.S. PROVIDING THE TOWER INITIALLY. IN DETAILED TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED IN WASHINGTON DURING DECEMBER 1972 THE U.S. ESTIMATE FOR ITS SHARE WAS 5 MILLION DOLLARS, THE FRENCH SHARE WAS 4.4 MILLION DOLLARS. CURRENT ESTIMATE FOR U.S. SHARE HAS INCREASED TO 8.8 MILLION DOLLARS. THE INCREASE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH TOWER PROCUREMENT COSTS TWICE THOSE ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED. IN VIEW OF THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE U.S. SHARE IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE THAT THE FRENCH ABSORB THE DELAY COSTS IN INSTALLATION.

4. TOWER PROCUREMENT HAS HIGH LEVEL NAVY INTEREST AND EVERY EFFORT IS BEING EXERTED TO PROVIDE THE TOWER BY 1 MAY 1975. HOWEVER, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY IN THE PROCUREMENT CYCLE TO FORECAST ANY CHANGE IN DELIVERY SCHEDULES. PLEASE INFORM QUAI THAT NAVY IS WORKING MOST DILIGENTLY TO MEET THE 1975 NEED DATES.

5. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4 IN RESPONDING TO FRENCH AIDE-MEMOIRE. KISSINGER
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